



FACT SHEET

KDHE

**Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant
Solid Waste Management Units 10, 11, 22 and 32
DeSoto, Kansas**

September 1999

INTRODUCTION: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) issued a permit to the United States Army as owner and Hercules Aerospace Company as operator of the facility on September 30, 1991. The permit issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires investigation of possible releases from past solid waste management. Status of four of these areas is outlined here.

BACKGROUND: The 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to RCRA directs EPA to require corrective action in permits for all releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents from solid waste management units

(SWMUs). Requirements to investigate and study releases from SWMUs are included in Part 2 of the EPA permit. It identifies 49 SWMUs for a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). Results of the investigation for SWMUs 10, 11, 22 and 32 are in reports titled: "General RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)" dated February 1997; and "RCRA Facility Investigation Report Addendum" dated March 1997. EPA required a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) at SWMUs 10, 11, 22 and 32 to study how they could be cleaned up. Results of the CMS are in the "Corrective Measures Study (CMS) Report" dated February 1999.

SWMU DESCRIPTIONS: SWMU 10 (F-Line Ditch area) is located in the east central portion of the facility. F-

Public Comment Period for the Statement of Basis on SWMUs 10, 11, 22, and 32

A comment period is being held from September 29 to November 15, 1999 on the Statement of Basis for a cleanup of SWMUs 10, 11, 22 and 32. EPA representatives will be available at DeSoto High School Auditorium 35000 W. 91st St. in DeSoto from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, 1999, to answer questions about the cleanup.

An information repository has been established at the Johnson County Public Library, DeSoto Branch, 33145 W. 83rd St., DeSoto, KS. The

repository is available during library hours. A record titled "Administrative Record for Corrective Measures at SWMUs 10/11 and 22/32" is at the information repository and at EPA Region 7 Information Center, 901 N. 5th St., Kansas City, KS, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Written comments must be submitted to the EPA project manager by November 15 using the address under For More Information.

Line produced N-5 propellant. In final form, the propellant was a long tube a few inches in diameter. The propellant was made from nitroglycerine and nitrocellulose and other compounds such as lead salicylate. The propellant was rolled into sheets; wound into "carpet rolls;" then extruded into the solid propellant tubes by hydraulic presses. Equipment and floors in N-5 production buildings were washed frequently to remove propellant pieces. The buildings had a ventilation system with a water scrubber to remove airborne particulate propellant. All these waste waters were combined and discharged into ditches outside the buildings.

SWMU 10 has 21 unlined ditches running east from the production buildings and ending either in settling ponds (SWMU 11) or lowlands near Kill Creek. The ditches were used from the early 1950s to 1971. The propellant fragments in the ditches contain hazardous constituents including nitroglycerine and lead. Soils have also been contaminated.

SWMU 11 (F-Line Settling Ponds) consists of eight unlined ponds. Ponds 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B received waste water from the N-5 propellant manufacturing process. The effluent was discharged into Spoon Creek. Ponds 3A and 3B also received waste water from the N-5 propellant process. However; that effluent discharged to Kill Creek. Ponds 4A and 4B received waste water from the F-Line Blender House and effluent discharged into a tributary of Pyott's Pond. Sediment in these ponds was allowed to dry, be removed and burned at the old explosive waste burning ground (SWMU 22). Soils and sediments in the ponds are contaminated with lead and explosive compounds such as nitroglycerine.

SWMU 22 (Old Explosive Waste Burning Grounds) was in operation from 1943 to 1980 and has six burning cells. These cells were used for open burning of waste explosives and propellant from sumps, filters, and drains. Soils are contaminated with lead and other explosive compounds such as nitroglycerine from burning propellants.

SWMU 32 (Lead Decontamination and Recovery Unit) is adjacent to SWMU 22. It is a small building and melting rack within a paved area. It was in operation from 1943 to 1970. Contaminated lead, removed during maintenance activities, was placed on racks and suspended over a tank where it was melted by an overhead heater. Melted lead in the tank was drained into molds for salvage. There was no spill containment. Solid lead pieces are scattered throughout soils in this area.

PREFERRED

CORRECTIVE MEASURE:

The preferred corrective measure for SWMUs 10, 11, 22 and 32 is Ex-situ Stabilization. This corrective measure includes:

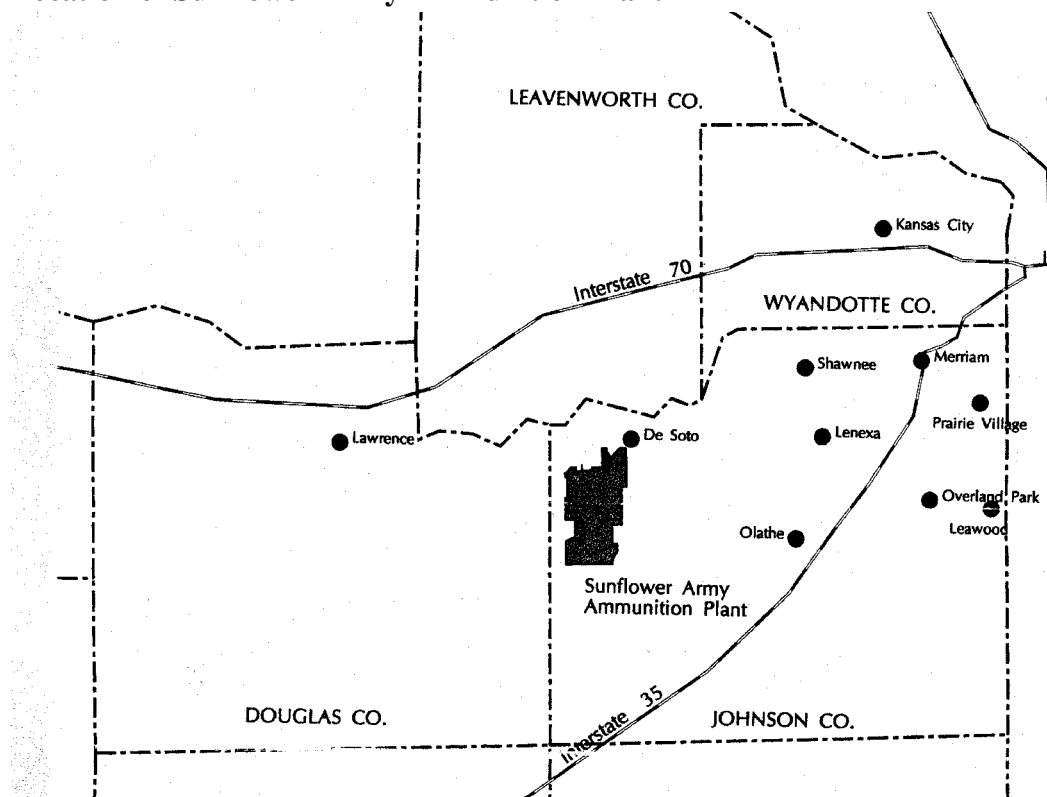
- Removing approximately 8,000 cubic yards of soil and sediment
- Mixing soil and sediment with a stabilizing agent
- Disposal of stabilized mixture in an on-site or off-site landfill

EPA has prepared a Statement of Basis describing the reasons it prefers this corrective measure. EPA will make its decision on a corrective measure only after the public comment period has ended and EPA has reviewed and responded to all written comments. EPA may modify its preferred corrective measure or select other

corrective measures based upon new information or written comments received from the public. Comment on the preferred corrective measure and other corrective measure alternatives is important to the corrective action process. A public hearing may be held by EPA if sufficient interest is expressed. A written request for a public

hearing accompanied by a statement of the issues to be raised in the hearing must be submitted to EPA for its consideration. Locations where the public may review the General RFI Report, RFI Addendum Report, and CMS Report are noted on the first page of this Fact Sheet.

Location of Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant



For More Information

An information repository has been established at the Johnson County Public Library, Desoto Branch, 33145 W. 83rd St., Desoto, Kansas. The information repository is available during normal library hours.

You may address letters to EPA Project Manager Ken Herstowski at EPA Region 7, Air, RCRA and Toxics Division, 901 N. 5th St.,

Kansas City, Kansas 66101, by phone at 913-551-7631, by fax at 913-551-7947, or by email at herstowski.ken@epa.gov.

The KDHE Project Manager Randy Carlson may be addressed at KDHE Bureau of Environmental Restoration, Building 740, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kansas 66620, or by phone at 785-296-1682.

Location of SWMUs 10, 11, 22 & 32

